

Lesson
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Compound-Complex Sentences

Teaching

A **compound-complex sentence** has two or more independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses.

For years, nobody had entered the old house, ^{independent clause} **but** ^{independent clause} everyone knew the story ^{dependent clause} that the house was haunted.

A. Identifying Clauses

In the compound-complex sentences below, the dependent clauses are underlined. Identify the sentence parts named in the parentheses, and write them on the line.

- Many people claimed that they had seen ghosts in the windows, and others believed them.

(simple subject and verb of the dependent clause) _____

(simple subject and verb of the second independent clause) _____

- Each night, as the clock strikes midnight, a strong wind blows the front door open, or can you explain its opening in another way?

(simple subject and verb of the first independent clause) _____

(simple subject and verb of the second independent clause) _____

- The bank that owns the old building has tried to sell it, but nobody wants to buy it, and no one wants to live near it.

(simple subject and verb of the dependent clause) _____

(simple subject and verb of the first independent clause) _____

B. Identifying Kinds of Sentences

Identify each sentence below with **CD** for compound, **CX** for complex, or **CD-CX** for compound-complex.

- Shake the bottle well, but don't spill the juice. _____
- The message that Alex sent was hard to understand, and help was slow in arriving. _____
- The garden flourished, with sunflowers and hollyhocks towering above the marigolds, dahlias, and shorter flowers. _____
- At the end of the concert, audience members jumped to their feet, and enthusiastic applause broke out. _____
- As temperatures dropped close to freezing, many orange groves were threatened. _____
- The guide who escorted our group spoke three languages, so we had no problems. _____

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More Practice

A. Identifying Clauses

In each compound-complex sentence below, draw parentheses around each independent clause and underline each dependent clause.

1. When the campfire was burning steadily, all the campers sat on the ground around it, and someone began to tell a scary story.
2. The story was not very good; however, because the campers heard strange hoots and noises from the forest around them, everyone was soon shivering.
3. After the first storyteller finished, another camper began a tale, and it was scarier.
4. In this story, a boy who didn't believe in ghosts agreed to stay in a haunted house overnight, and his friends couldn't talk him out of it.
5. After he had been in the house for an hour or so, he began to hear strange noises, but they didn't frighten him.
6. The camper who told the story added sound effects, for he knew how strange sounds scare people.
7. When he came to the "Boo!" at the end of the story, half of the campers jumped and screamed, and the rest laughed in relief.

B. Identifying Kinds of Sentences

Identify each sentence below with **S** for simple, **CD** for compound, **CX** for complex, or **CD-CX** for compound-complex.

1. The governor chose the best people whom he could find for the committee; Mr. Dobbs was appointed committee chairman. _____
2. The shopping mall has a store that sells nothing but clocks. _____
3. The most valuable of the prizes was wrapped in tattered and dirty paper. _____
4. People who expect special treatment are often disappointed. _____
5. Kathy had planned to study for the test this morning, but she overslept. _____
6. What we learned about France made us eager to visit that country, but we don't save money quickly, so the trip will not come soon. _____
7. The family planned outdoor activities for every day of vacation; however, bad weather interfered with the plans. _____
8. Every summer my cousins and uncle go to the opening baseball game. _____

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Identify each sentence in the short ghost story below with **S** for simple, **CD** for compound, **CX** for complex, or **CD-CX** for compound-complex.

1. One evening, George was driving in thick fog, and he took a shortcut past the cemetery. _____
2. When he saw a young woman walking slowly along in the dark, he pulled over to offer her a ride. _____
3. A cold, damp wind came into the car with the young woman. _____
4. The hitchhiker rode silently until the car reached the boundary of the cemetery, and there she disappeared. _____

B. Writing Different Kinds of Sentences

Write compound-complex sentences by adding to the sentences in Exercise A according to the directions in parentheses.

1. (Locate the compound sentence in Exercise A. Add an adjective clause.)

2. (Locate the complex sentence in Exercise A. Add another independent clause that gives more detail about the young woman's response.)

3. (Locate the simple sentence in Exercise A. Add a complex sentence— independent clause plus an adjective, adverb, or noun clause—that tells George's reaction to the coldness.)

4. (Locate the compound-complex sentence in Exercise A. Replace either independent clause.)

